

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
 Summit Auto Shredder Residue Fire - Removal Polrep
 Final Removal Polrep



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 Region V**

Subject: **POLREP #2**
Final
Summit Auto Shredder Residue Fire

Gary, IN
Latitude: 41.6279929 Longitude: -87.4219899

To: Charles Gebien, EPA SFD
 Verneta Simon, EPA SFD

From: Paul Atkociunas, OSC

Date: 1/19/2012

Reporting Period: 11/20/2011 - 1/19/2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category:	
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date: 11/19/2011	Start Date:	11/19/2011
Demob Date: 11/21/2011	Completion Date:	11/21/2011
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:	State Notification:	
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response - Auto Shredder Residue Fire

1.1.2 Site Description

The site is located in an industrial area. The Majestic Star Casino is located approximately one mile north of the site. The Gary Airport is located approximately 0.3 mile southeast of the site. The nearest residents are located approximately one mile northwest of the site. The Site is approximately 32 acres in size with auto shredder residues occupying approximately 2 acres.

1.1.2.1 Location

At Summit, Inc., an auto recycler located at 6901 Chicago Avenue, Gary, Lake County, Indiana.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Smoke plume from fire, potential run-off of contaminated water, and and piles of auto shredder residual

material (additional sources of combustible material).

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

At approximately 0730hrs on November 19, 2011, large piles of auto shredder residue caught fire at the Summit, Inc. auto recycling facility in Gary, Indiana. Auto shredder residue is a by-product of shredding vehicles and contains materials such as metal, glass, rubber, seat cushions and plastic. The auto shredder residue piles are approximately 45 feet high. Fire crews (City of Gary, Lake Ridge, Merrillville, East Chicago and New Chicago) arrived on the scene to put out the fires. Incident Command remained with City of Gary personnel. Several crews were working at one time to attempt to extinguish the flames with water. The Lake County Hazmat team set up AreaRaes to monitor for VOCs, CO, LEL, and O₂. At approximately 1100hrs, U.S. EPA received a request from Indiana Department of Environmental Management to provide air monitoring support.

At approximately 1215hrs, U.S. EPA arrived on the scene and was provided access by a Summit, Inc. representative. Prior to arrival, U.S. EPA mobilized START contractors to assist with air monitoring and sampling. Once on scene, U.S. EPA met with fire and hazmat crews. EPA was informed that the fire might take several days to extinguish. Fire crews indicated that upon their arrival, the fire's flames were up to 50-feet high with significant black smoke generated. However, upon arrival, U.S. EPA observed spotty fires and the smoke plume was white. Fire crews stated that they made significant progress fighting the fire; however, they anticipate further activities to extinguish the fire. The winds were directing the smoke plume towards the north, towards the Majestic Star Casino and Lake Michigan. The winds did not change direction on 11/19/2011, but shifted to southerly winds at approximately 0300 on 11/20/2011, directing the smoke plume over the Gary Regional Airport.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On 11/19/2011, up to four fire crews were conducted fire fighting with water. The Lake County Hazmat team was on the scene until approximately 1900. The Lake County Hazmat team set up four AreaRaes which monitor air for carbon monoxide (CO), lower explosive limit (LEL), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), oxygen (O₂), and volatile organic vapors (VOCs), and recorded their readings.

START crews monitored with a PDR for particulates and a MultiRAE for CO, VOCs, LEL, and O₂. Monitoring was conducted several times throughout the day at both at the scene of the fire and at the Majestic Star Casino. The highest air monitoring readings at the casino were 1.5 mg/m³ particulates and 0.2 ppm VOCs (all other readings were 0 or at background). The highest air monitoring readings at the scene of the fire were 0.7 mg/m³ particulates and a spike of 5 ppm VOCs in the smoke plume (all other readings were 0 or at background). A route was established in the downwind areas of the fire every 2 hours throughout the night of 11/19/2011 and into 11/20/2011. The route was changed to taking into consideration the change in wind direction at approximately 0300hrs on 11/20/2011.

START collected two air samples using summa canisters. One air sample was collected in the smoke plume on site and the other air sample was collected at the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Industrial Highway just off site and also in the smoke plume. These samples will be analyzed for VOCs.

START also collected one water sample of water pooled on site from fire fighting activities. This sample will be analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, and metals. In addition, two auto shredder residue samples were collected. These will be analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, metals, and TCLP metals.

START set up 3 AreaRAEs around the perimeter of the fire (see diagram) at approximately 2200hrs on 11/19/2011. Measurements for VOCs, LEL, O₂ and HCN are being continuously logged.

At 0900hrs on 11/20/2011, a plume was not visible from the fire, though concern remains for additional fires to develop if the site is not actively managed. At 1000hrs, representatives from Fire Departments (City of Gary, Merrillville, and Lake Ridge), U.S. EPA, START, IDEM, Lake County HazMat, Summit Inc., and Environmental Process Technologies (consultant to Summit, Inc.) held a tactics meeting. The Incident Commander and U.S. EPA provided a status update. U.S. EPA briefed responders on air monitoring and sampling efforts to date. The Incident Commander, U.S. EPA, IDEM, Summit Inc., and Environmental Process Technologies, Inc. personnel agreed to five incident objectives for future

response efforts:

- 1) Ensure health and safety of site personnel
- 2) Manage water from fire fighting operations
- 3) Continue air monitoring
- 4) Break down pile(s) of auto shredder residue
- 5) Extinguish the fire completely

The Incident Commander, U.S. EPA, IDEM, and Lake County HazMat reiterated the necessity for Summit Inc. and Environmental Process Technologies to take immediate action to ensure these five objectives are met.

On Sunday, November 20, 2011, Fire departments controlled the fire, however a substantial pile of ASR remained on site. Run-off from fire suppression efforts was largely contained on the site. Under the direction of the City of Gary Fire Department, the responsible party began to deconstruct the ASR piles and relocate the material into smaller, accessible and more manageable piles. U.S. EPA and START demobilized from the site on the afternoon of November 21, 2011. IDEM will oversee long term clean up efforts and U.S. EPA will continue to provide any additional technical assistance as needed.

On January 6, 2012, a letter report outlining U.S. EPA site activities and sampling results was completed. The report was distributed to relevant parties.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Summit, Inc. is the responsible party and has acknowledged responsibility for the response. Facility representatives indicate their insurance company has been notified of the incident.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

R5 Priorities Summary		
This is an Integrated River Assessment. The numbers should overlap.	Miles of river systems cleaned and/or restored	0
	Cubic yards of contaminated sediments removed and/or capped	0
	Gallons of oil/water recovered	0
	Acres of soil/sediment cleaned up in floodplains and riverbanks	0
Stand Alone Assessment	Acres Protected	32
	Number of contaminated residential yards cleaned up	0
	Human Health Exposures Avoided	1,000
	Number of workers on site	34

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Provide technical assistance as needed. The City of Gary is conducting oversight of the deconstruction of ASR piles. IDEM will oversee long term environmental clean-up objectives and goals.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

N/A

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Continue to coordinate activities with State and Local agencies.

2.2.2 Issues

None

2.3 Logistics Section

N/A

2.4 Finance Section**2.4.1 Narrative**

N/A

2.5 Other Command Staff**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

N/A

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

N/A

2.5.3 Information Officer

N/A

3. Participating Entities**3.1 Unified Command**

The Incident Commander is Chief of the City of Gary Fire Department.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

City of Gary Fire Department

Lake Ridge Fire Department

Merrillville Fire Department

New Chicago Fire Department

Lake County Hazardous Materials Team

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Salvation Army Disaster Services

4. Personnel On Site

No information at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

<http://www.epaosc.org/SummitFire>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

This is the Final POLREP; a letter report was completed on January 6, 2012. No other reports are anticipated.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.